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- Today's Insider (PDF)



YOU DON'T SAY...

"The state needs to butt out of the Raleigh bid."

Sen. Jeff Tarte, R-Mecklenburg, on rival Major League Soccer bids between Raleigh and Charlotte.

THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 7/20/17

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News Summary

Elections Boards

The state Supreme Court froze any further action in the revamp of the state elections board and ethics commission while a lawsuit challenging the merger awaits a hearing before the justices. The state's highest court agreed this week to take up a case filed by Gov. Roy Cooper, challenging a law adopted by the General Assembly this spring calling for the merger of the state Board of Elections and the state Ethics Commission.

But in an order issued on Thursday, Associate Justice Mike Morgan, the newest justice on the bench, put a halt on the process that is at the core of more than one legal challenge and has drawn heated debate. The case is scheduled for arguments at the Supreme Court on Aug. 28. The boards merged in June into the state Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement after a three-judge panel ruled against the governor, but Cooper has not yet appointed members to it.

In addition to halting any appointments before the Supreme Court hearing, Morgan also said there could not be a reinstatement of a separate elections board and ethics commission, leaving the state's election process in an ambiguous state at a time when municipal elections in Raleigh and other places are several months away.

Most county elections boards are still able to conduct business with their old board members, but some have lost some of their members through resignations, leaving them unable to make decisions. The state board appoints county boards.

Without a state board of elections, there is no one to approve county election boards. "It's becoming a big problem in some places," Stanly County Board of Elections Director Kim Blackwelder said. "But not so much for us."

Because the county's elections were recently moved to even-numbered years, she explained, they have no November elections to prepare for at this time. "So for us it's just a delay," Blackwelder said. "It's manageable."

However, in counties where elections are looming in a few months, the lack of board appointments is making it difficult to prepare. "It causes a lot of questions about who has authority," Blackwelder said.

While election staff can carry out all their regular duties, she said, they cannot decide anything that requires board approval. And without new boards, those decisions are left to the old board, which may or may not have legal authority at this point.

In addition, the clash of state powers has frozen a new set of quorum rules in place. According to those rules, county board of elections must have at least three members present to vote, Blackwelder said. For three-member boards like the one in Stanly County, that means no member can be absent. "So if you had a member on your board step down, it would be impossible to make decisions," Blackwelder said. "It's a tricky situation."

Ford Porter, Cooper's spokesman, praised the order putting a freeze on the process. "We're pleased the Supreme Court agrees with Governor Cooper that this legal process needs to be allowed to play out and that members should not be appointed to the proposed new board while that happens," Porter said in a statement. (Anne Blythe, THE NEWS & OBSERVER and Shannon Beamon, THE STANLY NEWS & PRESS, 7/20/17).

Offshore Drilling

Under pressure from President Donald Trump, North Carolina's governor announced his opposition on Thursday to drilling for natural gas and oil off the Atlantic coast, saying it poses too much of a threat to the state's beaches and tourism economy. Up against a Friday deadline for comment from elected officials on the Trump administration's request for companies to perform seismic testing under Atlantic waters, Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper held a news conference at a coastal state park to announce he'll be registering the state's opposition.

"There is a threat looming over this coastline that we love and the prosperity it brings, and that's the threat of offshore drilling," Cooper said at the Fort Macon State Park in Carteret County, where he said he visited as a child and as a parent. "As governor, I'm here to speak out and take action against it. I can sum it up in four words: 'not off our coast.'"

State Republican leaders, including former Gov. Pat McCrory, have pressed for exploration both offshore and inland through hydraulic fracturing. GOP legislators have passed laws laying the groundwork for collecting royalties from any oil and gas mined below the ocean surface. In April, Trump signed an executive order to expand oil drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic oceans, reversing restrictions imposed by President Barack Obama, and the Interior Department is rewriting a five-year drilling plan. A federal agency is now seeking permits for five businesses to use seismic air guns to find oil and gas formations deep under the Atlantic, despite the harm environmentalists say this technology does to marine mammals. Maryland GOP Gov. Larry Hogan also announced his opposition this month.

Cooper, who took office in January, said an oil spill could be catastrophic to commercial fishermen and the tourism industry, which provides more than \$3 billion in spending and 30,000 jobs in coastal counties. North Carolina Petroleum Council Executive Director David McGowan said offshore energy could bring thousands of new jobs and more local revenues. The governor disagreed.

"There is little evidence that offshore drilling would be a financial boon for our state," Cooper said. If drilling does happen, he said jobs and revenue sharing won't likely be plentiful, and he said potential cuts to federal regulations also raise environmental risks.

North Carolina environmental groups were thrilled with Cooper's announcement, attended by a favorable crowd of supporters. Cooper, the attorney general for the past 16 years, said very little about offshore drilling during last fall's gubernatorial campaign against McCrory. Cooper's office said more than 30 municipalities have passed resolutions opposing the drilling and testing.

Cooper "listened to all of North Carolina's coastal communities who've been calling for the protection of our coast," Southern Environmental Law Center attorney Sierra Weaver said in a release. Erin Carey with the North Carolina Sierra Club added the governor "sent a strong, clear message to the Trump administration and the fossil fuel industry that our coast is not for sale."

U.S. Rep. Richard Hudson, R-N.C., a leader in a congressional caucus seeking to advance offshore energy, criticized Cooper's decision and said energy exploration and environmental protection aren't mutually exclusive. "To put it simply, Gov. Cooper is wrong," Hudson said in a release. "This is not an either-or situation." State Senate leader Phil Berger, an exploration supporter, took a dig at Cooper, saying it's fortunate the ultimate decision on drilling isn't up to him. "If we listened to liberal politicians like him, we would still be dependent on energy resources from dictators in Russia, the Middle East and Venezuela," Berger said. (THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 7/20/17).

Medicaid Expansion

North Carolina's legislative leaders have dropped their lawsuit challenging Gov. Roy Cooper's attempt to expand the state's Medicaid program in the waning days of Barack Obama's presidency. Phil Berger, president pro tempore of the N.C. Senate, and Tim Moore, speaker of the state House, announced on Thursday that they had decided to withdraw the case because Cooper never submitted his plan to expand the federal health insurance program to the Obama or Donald Trump administrations. The lawsuit named federal and state human-services officials as defendants, but not Cooper. The lawmakers argued that Cooper could not act unilaterally to expand the program under a state law adopted in 2013, countering the governor's contentions that the statute impinges on "the core executive authority" of the executive branch.

Under Medicaid, the state and federal governments pay medical costs for low-income families and individuals, mostly poor children, some of their parents, the elderly and disabled. Expansion under the Affordable Care Act would raise income limits to cover more people, including more childless adults. State leaders have refused to expand Medicaid coverage. The Republican-dominated legislature went so far as to approve the legislation in 2013 that bars the executive branch from expanding the program.

In a document filed in the case last week, attorneys representing Tom Price, Trump's secretary of Health and Human Services, asked for the case to be dropped against that agency, saying the legislators had no claim because there was no application before the federal office with a request to expand the program. "We are pleased Gov. Cooper abandoned his plan to defy state and federal law and unilaterally expand Obamacare in North Carolina, but remain prepared to take swift legal action if he tries to make this unlawful move again," Berger and Moore said in a joint statement. (Anne Blythe, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 7/20/17).

MLS Competition

Could the state of North Carolina tilt the playing field to Raleigh over Charlotte in the fight for a major league soccer franchise? That's what two Mecklenburg County lawmakers said Thursday. Their accusations came a day after a Raleigh group met with MLS officials and unveiled plans for a \$150 million stadium and entertainment complex worth hundreds of millions on state-owned land in downtown Raleigh.

"The state needs to butt out of the Raleigh bid," said Sen. Jeff Tarte, R-Mecklenburg. "If they're doing that it's wrong and they need to stop."

Charlotte and Raleigh are among 12 cities across the country vying for a franchise. In effect, the N.C. cities are also competing with each other.

On Tuesday, Major League Soccer officials met in Charlotte with a local ownership group hoping to lure an expansion team to a new, \$175 million stadium in Elizabeth. The group -- led by Marcus Smith, son of billionaire race track owner Bruton Smith -- has asked for public tax dollars to help

pay for it. Mecklenburg County's proposed capital budget includes nearly \$115 million for the stadium over two years, an amount that would be offset by lease payments of \$4.25 million a year. Charlotte city officials are considering a contribution of \$30 million.

The Raleigh group, the North Carolina Football Club, has not asked local or state governments for a direct contribution other than road and other infrastructure improvements. But the group is asking to lease 13 acres of state property a block north of the General Assembly. That's half of what's known as the state government complex. The group would raze several state buildings including the 40-year-old, 15-story Archdale Building, home to the N.C. Department of Public Safety. The new facility would include more than 750,000 square feet of space to eventually accommodate state employees and other tenants. A football club spokesman Thursday said there's been no decision on how much the group would lease the land for.

But like Tarte, Sen. Joel Ford, D-Mecklenburg, said a lease would effectively put the state on Raleigh's side. "I don't believe that the state should be picking winners and losers when it comes to major league soccer," said Ford, a Charlotte Democrat running for mayor. "The state would be giving a leg up to one city over another."

State officials were still evaluating the Raleigh offer Thursday.

"We are aware that the North Carolina Football Club is making a proposal to the state, and we look forward to reviewing the details of their proposal," Shelly Carver, a spokeswoman for Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger, said Thursday.

Not everyone in Charlotte's delegation is concerned about the state's role in the Raleigh proposal. "I don't think it should be perceived as favoritism to one city or another," said Democratic Sen. Jeff Jackson, D-Mecklenburg. "The state doesn't have a choice but to be a participant (in Raleigh) because they own the land in question." (Jim Morrill, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER and Paul A. Specht, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 7/20/17).

Helicopter Sale

After years of failing to sell the state's helicopter, the new state budget requires the N.C. Department of Transportation to hire an outside contractor to market the aircraft and find a buyer. DOT has tried repeatedly since 2014 to sell the 1998 Sikorsky S-76C+ aircraft, but most offers have been less than the \$2.25 million asking price. The chopper has been used by governors from Jim Hunt in 1998 to Pat McCrory, and it features sheepskin seat covers and heated foot pads in the cockpit. McCrory rarely used the helicopter, preferring to travel around the state by plane, and his administration grew concerns about the helicopter's maintenance costs -- around \$265,000 annually. The helicopter was purchased in 1998 by the Department of Commerce for business recruiting trips, but it was later used more frequently for disaster relief efforts and to transport the governor and other state leaders. The state budget bill has a provision calling for DOT to hire an outside contractor that "specializes or has experience in the sale of aviation equipment to sell the helicopter." Proceeds from the sale must go to a fund "within the Highway Fund to be used for future aircraft or equipment acquisitions by the Division of Aviation."

James Pearce, a spokesman for DOT's Division of Aviation, said this week that the process has begun. "The helicopter has been undergoing an inspection and some repairs (covered by insurance)," he said in an email. "Once NCDOT gets it back, it will need to be re-appraised, and then a third-party vendor can be brought in." The helicopter's last appraisal in 2015 found it was worth \$2.55 million. DOT had initially listed the helicopter on eBay, and later placed ads on Controller.com, globalair.com and in Executive Controller Magazine.

"NCDOT has received a handful of offers, but none were considered serious or reasonable," Pearce said.

DOT came close to selling the helicopter late last year, when Streamline Industries made an offer for \$2.25 million in December. Pearce said DOT put that offer into "Offer to Sale contract format" 10 days later, but the company never responded back to NCDOT. "Around the same time, another company offered to trade its helicopter for the Sikorsky, but "NCDOT declined because we did not want to be left with another helicopter," Pearce said.

The budget provision also requires DOT to sell a Cessna 550 Citation Bravo airplane, but no outside contractor is required for that sale. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 7/21/17).

AG Layoffs

North Carolina Attorney General Josh Stein has spent the past several weeks asking other state agencies to contribute money from their budgets to pay for the work of assistant attorneys general who might have to be laid off to comply with a surprise \$10 million budget cut. Stein, a Democrat and former state senator from Wake County, found out shortly before the new fiscal year began July 1 that his office would lose that state money. Legislative leaders didn't call his office, he said, to talk about a proposal that showed up only in the final version of the state budget after not being included in either the state House or Senate spending plans.

The budget lines that specified the cuts were so targeted that Stein estimated he might have to cut 123 full-time employees from his team of attorneys, technology support staff and human resources staff. The vast majority, he said, would be staff lawyers who help represent the state on criminal appeals, fill in on cases that cannot be handled by the state's district attorneys under special circumstances and offer counsel on cases that arise out of the UNC system, commissions and such state offices as the Department of the State Treasurer and Office of Administrative Hearings, where state employees air grievances. "Everybody we've talked to is very concerned about the cuts," Stein said. No agency has committed to providing funding, he said.

"Our lawyers keep murderers and rapists behind bars," Stein said. "They go after health care providers who are cheating the taxpayers." Additionally, Stein said, the attorneys help build consumer protection cases and protect the state and its residents from environmental polluters.

"The state will be less safe ... because of these draconian cuts," Stein said.

Before contacting state agencies that might suffer from cuts to his workforce, Stein said he tried to appeal to Phil Berger, the state Senate leader, and Tim Moore, the speaker of the state House. But lawmakers left Raleigh without putting forward the technical amendment to the budget that he advocated. "I pushed the legislature as hard as I could," Stein said during a telephone interview. So now Stein said he is trying to make it clear to other state agencies and commissions what effects they might experience if his office loses more than one-third of the full-time employees in its legal services division. The absence of legal assistance that has been provided over the years to the various state agencies could add expenses to their budgets if they have to add in-house attorneys to do the same thing or pay for private counsel.

"We have again looked at his budget, looked at those things that he is charged constitutionally and statutorily with doing, and believe that the funding level is more than adequate for him to be able to do his job," Berger said at the time the budget was passed. (Anne Blythe, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 7/20/17).

Broadband Map

Resources: [Broadband Map](#)

The state's Department of Information Technology is trying to develop a crowdsourced map of broadband internet infrastructure in North Carolina. The agency's Broadband Infrastructure office has launched a website where users are asked if FCC data on broadband availability is accurate for their homes and businesses. If the information doesn't match the service and connection speeds listed in the state's database, the user can submit details about what's actually available at the location. "Since releasing the tool, we have had almost 900 people submit speed information ranging from full gig speed to many citizens reporting that they aren't receiving service at their location at all," Wes King wrote on the department's blog. "As the initiative continues to move forward and more and more users use the tool to report their data, the data collected will help us assist communities with applying for or petitioning for federal government funding or other funding opportunities." So far, the map shows slower maximum speeds in rural areas, particularly in eastern North Carolina and the state's most western counties. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 7/21/17).

Schools Lawsuit

The Richmond County Board of Education will take its case against the state to the highest court in North Carolina. The promise from the schools' attorney comes on the heels of an N.C. Court of Appeals ruling that said the court could not order legislators to pay \$272,300 they misspent on something other than schools. In its ruling Tuesday, the appeals court cited the state Constitution, which it said banned the judicial branch of government from telling the legislative branch what to do.

"I respectfully disagree," school board attorney George Crump III said Wednesday. Crump will file for an appeal, citing the "significant jurisprudence value" of the case, which now also would affect nearly three dozen other districts with similar claims. The key issue, Crump said, is that "there is no case in the history of North Carolina that states that a judgment ... is unenforceable." Besides, he said, "the state has ample revenue to pay this money."

The dispute concerns a 2011 legislative decision to create a \$50 fine for traffic violations and use the money to pay counties to house misdemeanor offenders in their jails rather than in state prisons, the Associated Press reported. The law ran afoul of the state constitution, which says the "clear proceeds" of all fines, penalties and forfeitures collected for breaking the law belong to counties and must be used only to maintain public schools. Such fines no longer are assessed. The school board's case began when Crump represented a client facing a fine and learned that the money he paid to satisfy it would go to the state instead of county schools.

The board sued, with a list of defendants including the state treasurer, controller and budget director, as well as now-Gov. Roy Cooper -- attorney general at the time -- all in their official capacities as officers of the state. In May 2012, a judge in Wake County Superior Court ruled that Richmond County Schools should get the fines. The state appealed, but the ruling was upheld in 2015. But the appeals court struck down the repayment provision of the ruling.

"When the courts enter a judgment against the state, and no funds already are available to satisfy that judgment, the judicial branch has no power to order state officials to draw money from the state treasury to satisfy it," wrote appellate Judge Richard Dietz. The appellate court suggested the school board go to the legislature if it wanted to go "reaching into the public purse" because the courts could not. Last year, state Rep. Ken Goodman and state Sen. Tom McInnis both filed bills seeking repayment from their brethren in the legislature. Neither effort made it out of committee and onto the floor, Crump said. On Wednesday, Goodman, D-Richmond, quipped that "to say it died in committee was to say it was ever alive."

"I filed the bill," he said. "I lobbied for it, (but) they aren't going to give up that money," Goodman said of his fellow legislators. He said they might have paid, "if this were the only county that had a claim." But because it's nearly 40, "their fear would be that would set a precedent, and they'd have to pay them (all) off."(Christine S. Carroll, THE RICHMOND COUNTY DAILY JOURNAL, 7/19/17).

Weekend TV

Political roundtable shows in North Carolina will be addressing poverty, economic development and the opioid epidemic this weekend. A new show will debut Sunday on Spectrum News, "In Focus with Loretta Boniti," in which the channel's senior political reporter will be joined by an expert panel to discuss a single topic in depth each week.

Here's what to look for:

- **Bottom Line:** This week's show features economic development policy in North Carolina, as well as Gov. Roy Cooper's action on business-related bills. **Hosts:** Joe Stewart and Sougata Mukherjee **Guests:** N.C. Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland and Insider editor Colin Campbell **Airs:** Fridays at 10 p.m., Saturdays at 3 a.m., and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on UNC-TV's North Carolina Channel or [online](#).
- **In Focus:** Multiple panels of experts will dig into the issue of the opioid addiction epidemic. State leaders on both sides of the aisle have taken steps to address the problem, but will government intervention help? **Host:** Loretta Boniti **Guests:** Attorney General Josh Stein, Rep. Greg Murphy, R-Pitt, N.C. Secretary of Health and Human Services Mandy Cohen, New Hanover District Attorney Ben David, District Court Judge Julius Corpening and Chris Budnick of Healing Transitions **Airs:** 11:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Sunday on Spectrum News/News 14, and can be found [online](#).
- **Education Matters:** "Race: Are We So Different?" a rebroadcast of an April program featuring the story of the first black family to apply to an all-white Raleigh school. **Host:** Keith Poston **Guests:** Emelia Cowans-Taylor of the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences; James White of the YMCA; Joe Holt Jr.; and Zack Boone and Lev Cohen of Exploris Middle School **Airs:** Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. on WRAL, Sundays at 6:30 a.m. and Mondays at 3 p.m. on the NC Channel, or anytime at [NCForum.org](#).

- **Front Row:** This week's show will discuss the failure of the Senate healthcare bill, the Democratic Party's efforts to organize for 2018 and 2020, and income tax cuts. **Host:** Marc Rotterman **Guests:** Mitch Kokai of the John Locke Foundation, Spectrum News reporter Loretta Boniti, Democratic strategist Morgan Jackson and Graham Wilson, press secretary under former Gov. Pat McCrory **Airs:** 8:30 p.m. Friday on UNC-TV, and 9 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Sunday on the NC Channel.
- **NC Spin:** A panel of four 4-H members from across the state will discuss their views on current events and education and their hopes for the future. **Host:** Tom Campbell. **Guests:** Joshua Wilson, Grace LaHay, Alea Hunsucker and Zoe Steenwyk **Airs:** Times vary by market. Details can be found online at [NC Spin](#).
- **On the Record:** This week's show explores issues of poverty and hunger in the local community. **Host:** David Crabtree. **Guests:** Wake County Commissioner Jessica Holmes, Brian Kennedy from the N.C. Justice Center and longtime News & Observer columnist Barry Saunders **Airs:** 7 p.m. Saturday on WRAL-TV, with recordings available online at [wral.com](#).

(THE INSIDER, 7/21/17).

Bill Signings

Gov. Roy Cooper had a busy Thursday, signing a total of 29 mostly non-controversial bills into law. The action leaves about 48 bills left on the governor's desk, down from the more than 100 bills that awaited Cooper's action in the days after the legislature adjourned. Here's a list of bills Cooper signed on Thursday, with the descriptions that were included in the bill titles:

- **House Bill 26:** An Act To Clarify That An Injury Not Identified In An Award Arising Out Of G.S. 97-18(B) OR G.S. 97-18(D) Is Not Presumed Causally Related And To Amend The Workers' Compensation Act Regarding Approval of Disputed Legal Fees By The Industrial Commission.
- **House Bill 115:** An Act To Make Technical Corrections And Other Conforming Changes To The Laws Governing The Teachers' And State Employees' Retirement System, The Local Government Employees' Retirement System, And Other Related Statutes.
- **House Bill 135:** An Act To Make Organizational And Technical Changes To The Courses Of Study Statutes.
- **House Bill 149:** An Act To Require The State Board Of Education And Local Boards Of Education To Develop Tools To Ensure Identification Of Students With Dyslexia And Dyscalculia.
- **House Bill 176:** An Act To Make Changes That Will Assist In Preventing And Detecting Fraud, Waste And Abuse And In Ensuring The Fiscal Integrity Of The Teachers' And State Employees' Retirement System, The Retiree Health Benefit, And The Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System.
- **House Bill 183:** An Act To Make Clarifying And Administrative Changes To The Teachers' And State Employees' Retirement System And The Local Government Employees' System Laws And Related Statutes.
- **House Bill 252:** An Act To Make Various Changes And Clarifications To The Statutes Governing The Creation And Enforcement Of Building Codes.
- **House Bill 258:** An Act Amending The Definition Of Health Care Provider In Article 1B Of Chapter 90 Of The General Statutes To Include Paramedics.
- **House Bill 275:** An Act To Exempt Airports From Paying A Stormwater Utility Fee Levied On Runways And Taxiways.
- **House Bill 283:** An Act To Require The Department of Health and Human Services to Study And Recommend A Telemedicine Policy.
- **House Bill 299:** An Act To Make Clarifying And Administrative Changes To The Laws Relating To The North Carolina State Health Plan For Teachers And State Employees.
- **House Bill 383:** An Act To Make Certain Changes To The North Carolina Insurance Laws Regarding Own Risk And Solvency Assessments And Credit For Reinsurance In Accordance With Model Acts Of The National Association Of Insurance Commissioners, As

Recommended By The North Carolina Department of Insurance, And To Implement Revised Model Regulations Of The National Association Of Insurance Commissioners Governing Recommendations Made To Consumers Regarding The Purchase Or Exchange of Annuities.

- **House Bill 436:** An Act To Provide For Uniform Authority To Implement System Development Fees For Public Water And Sewer Systems In North Carolina And To Clarify The Applicable Statute Of Limitations.
- **House Bill 501:** An Act To Require The Department Of Transportation To Include Surveying Information In Any Plans Prepared For The Purpose Of Acquiring Certain Property Rights, To Make Changes To The Department Of Transportation Residue Property Disposal Procedure, And To Modify The Financial Responsibility Limits For Taxicabs.
- **House Bill 548:** An Act To Equalize The Sales Tax Treatment Of Wastewater Dispersal Products.
- **House Bill 550:** An Act Repealing And Replacing North Carolina's Current Nurse Licensure Compact.
- **House Bill 620:** An Act To Authorize The Acquisition Or Construction And The Financing, Without Appropriations From The General Fund, Of Certain Capital Improvements Projects Of The Constituent Institutions Of The University Of North Carolina.
- **Senate Bill 78:** An Act To Study The Financial Costs To The State And Local School Administrative Units Of Compliance With Federal Mandates Related To The Receipt Of Federal Education Funding And To Establish The Joint Legislative Study Commission On Efficiency And Cost-Savings In State Government.
- **Senate Bill 88:** An Act To Allow For Severance Of Summary Ejectment And Monetary Claims In Small Claims Actions When Service Of Process Only Meets Summary Ejectment Standards, To Allow For The Severed Monetary Claim To Be Continued With Alias And Pluries Summons, And To Allow Pro Se Representation On Appeal.
- **Senate Bill 104:** An Act Requiring Criminal Background Checks For Applicants For Pharmacist Licensure.
- **Senate Bill 107:** An Act To Remove Safety Hazards And Restore North Carolina's Natural Riverine Resources By Facilitating The Removal Of Obsolete And Unwanted Dams.
- **Senate Bill 196:** An Act To Clarify That The Practice Of Horseshoeing Is Not The Practice Of Veterinary Medicine And To Study Veterinary Pharmaceutical Compounding.
- **Senate Bill 388:** An Act To Allow Reports Received By The Court On The Lack Of Capacity To Proceed To Be Shared With Treatment Providers And To Study The Lack of Capacity To Proceed Process.
- **Senate Bill 413:** An Act To Clarify Motor Vehicle Dealers And Manufacturers Licensing Laws.
- **Senate Bill 415:** An Act To Clarify The Definition Of Collection Agency To Exclude Persons Engaged In Routine Billing Services.
- **Senate Bill 489:** An Act To Clarify When Notices Of Cancellation Of Workers' Compensation Policies Are Presumed Effective And Complete And To Provide The Procedure To Be Followed When The Deputy Or Member Of The Commission That Heard The Parties At Issue And Their Representatives And Witnesses Is Unable To Decide The Case and Issue An Award.
- **Senate Bill 548:** An Act Strengthening Human Trafficking Laws, Authorizing The North Carolina Board Of Massage And Bodywork Therapy To Regulate Massage And Bodywork Therapy Establishments, Requiring Massage And Bodywork Therapists To Obtain A Statewide Privilege License, And Authorizing The Department of Health And Human Services To Study Ways To Identify And Protect Victims Of Human Trafficking.
- **Senate Bill 567:** An Act To Provide For The Judicial Reformation Of Wills To Correct Mistakes And The Judicial Modification Of Wills To Achieve The Testator's Tax Objectives And To Revise The North Carolina Uniform Trust Code To Achieve Consistency In The Reformation Of Trusts With The Reformation Of Wills, As Recommended By The General Statutes Commission.
- **Senate Bill 569:** An Act To Adopt The Uniform Power Of Attorney Act In This State.

(THE INSIDER, 7/21/17).

Pension Gains

Powered by gains in its stock portfolio, the state pension fund reported a 2.7 percent investment return in the second quarter and a 10.6 percent increase for the fiscal year. The gains boosted the total pension fund's assets to \$93.9 billion as of June 30, its highest valuation ever, up from \$92.2 billion at the end of March, according to data issued Thursday by the office of state Treasurer Dale Folwell.

The gains in the stock portfolio come as Folwell, who has final say on the fund's investments, has been dialing back investments in stocks in conjunction with his aggressive fee-cutting efforts.

Billions of dollars previously invested in stocks have been shifted to investment-grade bonds and cash -- for example, investing in things such as short-term U.S. Treasury bills, or T-bills.

More than 900,000 current and retired teachers, state employees, firefighters, police officers and other public employees rely on the pension fund for retirement benefits. Investments in stocks, which represent the pension fund's largest single investment category, gained 4.5 percent in the quarter and 19 percent for the fiscal year that ended June 30.

Those gains were by far the best of any of the pension fund's asset classes. Ranking No. 2 was private equity, which gained 2.6 percent for the quarter and 9.5 percent during the fiscal year.

Return rates are calculated after fees and expenses are deducted.

Under Folwell's leadership the pension fund has reduced fees by more than \$60 million on an annualized basis -- that is, those savings aren't immediate but will be realized over a year's time. Those savings include terminating outside money managers that were investing in stocks as well as renegotiating contracts. Consequently, Folwell, a Republican who took office in January, already has easily exceeded his campaign promise to slash fees by \$100 million during his four-year term.

Folwell said during a recent interview that when he took office the pension fund had too much invested in stocks and that the fund had lost billions -- at least on paper -- from its stock investments during the recession. He also said that the pension fund's needs for cash have been underestimated. But critics say the pension fund's potential returns are being reduced because stocks typically outperform bonds and cash. The pension fund's investments in stocks amounted to 37.6 of the total portfolio as of June 30, down from 43.2 percent at the end of December. (David Ranii, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 7/20/17).

Zoo Plans

The North Carolina Zoo has established the Conservation, Education and Science Department to refocus conservation efforts and more effectively communicate those efforts to the public.

That was the gist of a presentation by Rich Bergl, director of the department, during the annual joint meeting of the Zoo Council and Zoo Society Wednesday. The new department comes amidst a reshuffling of staff to better meet the goal of improving public perception of the zoo's dedication to wildlife conservation. Bergl said a survey had shown that the public's favorable perception of zoos had declined from 88 percent in 2008 to 63 percent in 2017. Factors in the decline appear to be that people perceive that zoo animals aren't happy and that there is a lack of conservation support.

In order to improve public perception, Bergl said, zoos should work to improve animal welfare, commit to conservation and improve the education of the public to those efforts. The new Conservation, Education and Science Department will be doing conservation work and communicating that work more effectively, Bergl said. Recent hires are Dr. Beth Folta, curator of education, and Dr. Julia Greenberg, associate curator of research.

Some of the conservation work includes the Cross River gorilla field research, new anti-poaching projects in Namibia for rhinos, Zambia for cheetahs and big cats, and Zimbabwe for African wild dogs and elephants. The zoo has also provided a database to help manage anti-poaching projects at 400 sites around the world.

Other conservation efforts involve African vultures, the Carolina gopher frog, the Puerto Rican crested toad and the Pine Barrens tree frog. The zoo is creating habitats for migrating butterflies, with waystations at Solar Pointe Pavilions. Zoo staff is also testing artificial nest boxes in streams to increase reproduction of the hellbender salamander.

Another idea is to allow visitors to interact with scientists, provide live wildlife science shows or to have windows allowing visitors to see scientists at work. Bergl said plans are being devised to replace the old African Pavilion with a Central Plaza that would feature food and retail outlets, a theater, a transport hub and links to off-exhibit propagation facilities.

Pat Simmons, executive director of the N.C. Zoo, told the assembly that the master plan calls for the opening of Australia in 2020 and Asia in 2024. In the meantime, the Zoo Society and the City of Asheboro are looking at bringing in hotels for increased attendance, even providing shuttles from town to the zoo. "We're creating a sense of place, and we're the place," Simmons said. (Larry Penkava, THE (Asheboro) COURIER-TRIBUNE, 7/19/17).

New Hanover Letter

Resources: [New Hanover County Commissioner Woody White's Letter](#)

In a letter sent Thursday afternoon, New Hanover County Board of Commissioners Chairman Woody White had several questions about GenX water contamination for Gov. Roy Cooper prior to Cooper's visit to the region next week. In coordination with Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo, Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Chairman Frank Williams and Pender County Board of Commissioners Chairman George Brown, White first thanked Cooper for joining a conference call that was held Monday and for agreeing to come to Wilmington next Monday to discuss GenX, an unregulated chemical that was discharged into the Cape Fear River by the Chemours Company at its Fayetteville Works site.

Cooper sent a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency on Monday calling for the agency to move quicker to finalize its health assessment and set a maximum contaminant level for GenX in the water.

White asked several direct questions of Cooper in his letter, saying he and the other county commissioners didn't have an opportunity to discuss some specific concerns during the conference call.

Among the questions were: Will the state immediately initiate studies on the human health effects of GenX? Are state regulators going to determine if, and at what levels, PFOA-related compounds and/or emerging contaminants beyond GenX have been discharged into the Cape Fear River dating back to 1980? Was it illegal for companies like DuPont and Chemours to discharge these compounds into the river?

White closed the letter by asking for the state to be more proactive letting people in the Cape Fear Region know about GenX-related issues, saying "The health and well-being of our citizens is job one for us, and it is essential that together we understand the situation and work to ensure that responsible parties are held accountable." (WECT TV, 7/20/17).

Dry County

Burke County voters will get a chance in November to decide whether alcohol should be sold throughout the county. The Burke County Board of Commissioners, in a 3-1 vote Tuesday, approved a resolution calling for a referendum asking voters whether they want on- and off-premises sale of beer and wine, liquor by the drink and ABC stores in the county. Commissioner Maynard Taylor voted against the measure and Commissioner Chairman Jeff Brittain was absent from Tuesday's meeting.

The county has been a "dry" county since prohibition was repealed in December 1933. The last time a county-wide alcohol referendum was put to the voters was September 1949. Since that time, voters in five municipalities in Burke County have approved alcohol sales in some form or another. The city of Morganton and town of Valdese have all forms of alcohol sales, while Rutherford College and Hildebran don't have ABC store sales. Hildebran and Glen Alpine also don't have liquor by the drink. Hildebran also doesn't have the sale of fortified wine.

The county-wide referendum will be put on the ballot for the Nov. 7 election. (Sharon McBrayer, THE (Morganton) NEWS HERALD, 7/19/17).

Rejected Candidacy

John Moore, whose candidacy for Hendersonville City Council was rejected last week by the county Board of Elections due to his age, lost his appeal of that decision Thursday morning. The three-member board's unanimous decision Thursday to deny the appeal came a week after it first disqualified Moore, 20, from candidacy on July 13. Moore can now appeal the decision through the court system, but said after the hearing Thursday that he's still weighing his options. Asked if he plans to run again once he turns 21, he gave the same answer.

The board was sympathetic, expressing their gratitude at his willingness to run for office and his desire to serve the community. But in the end, on the advice of County Attorney Russ Burrell, board members ruled along what the state constitution lays out as requirements. In its decision to deny Moore's candidacy, the Board of Elections cited the North Carolina Constitution, Article VI, Section 6, which states, "Every qualified voter in North Carolina who is 21 years of age, except as in this Constitution disqualified, shall be eligible for election by the people to office."

Moore announced his candidacy June 6, the day after his 20th birthday. He contends that the Hendersonville city charter lists no such age requirement, only that a potential candidate be a registered voter and city resident, all qualifications he meets.(Derek Lacey, THE (Hendersonville) TIMES-NEWS, 7/20/17).

HB2 Suit

The American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU of North Carolina, and Lambda Legal will file new court action against North Carolina's House Bill 142, the law that replaced the infamous HB2 Bathroom bill. Earlier this year, North Carolina lawmakers approved a replacement law to the 'bathroom bill', House Bill 142, which was aimed at advancing protections for LGBT workers in the state that were lost under HB2. HB2 was a controversial law signed under then-Governor Pat McCrory that caused a harsh backlash from businesses and activists throughout North Carolina and the country.

The debate for a replacement under Governor Cooper was nationally watched as partisan politics took center stage. Critics of the new bill point to the clause that prevents cities and counties from passing any protections against discrimination in private employment or places of public accommodation for LGBT people or anyone until December 2020.

The ACLU and Lambda Legal originally filed a federal lawsuit challenging House Bill 2 on behalf of LGBT North Carolinians days after it went into effect in March 2016. A federal district court later ruled that the measure likely violated federal nondiscrimination law.(Nick Kurtz, WCNC TV, 7/20/17).

Pentagon Post

Robert Wilkie, a senior adviser to U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, is President Donald Trump's pick to be under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. The White House announced Trump's intention to nominate Wilkie on Wednesday. Wilkie, who is from Fayetteville, served in Trump's transition office. He has worked as senior adviser to Tillis, a North Carolina Republican, since 2015.

"Robert Wilkie has been indispensable as my senior adviser, and his nomination is a crystal clear indication that Secretary of Defense (James) Mattis is committed to choosing the highest caliber people possible to help him lead the Pentagon. A proud native of Fayetteville, Robert is deeply respected by North Carolina's military community, and he has worked closely with me over the last three years to help ensure North Carolina's military installations have the resources and assets they need to serve America's national security mission," Tillis said in a statement.

He worked as vice president for strategic initiatives as CH2M Hill, an engineering consulting firm in Washington D.C., from 2010 to 2015. Wilkie was the assistant secretary of defense for legislative affairs during President George W. Bush's second term. He is a reserve officer assigned to the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg and formerly served in the Navy reserve. He received the Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest civilian award in the department.

Wilkie is a Capitol Hill veteran, having worked for then-Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott from 1997 to 2003. He was executive director of the North Carolina Republican Party before going to work for Lott. Wilkie also served as an aide to former North Carolina Sen. Jesse Helms and former U.S. Rep. David Funderburk. Wilkie unsuccessfully ran for the Republican nomination in the 7th Congressional District in 1996.

Wilkie graduated from Wake Forest University and earned law degrees from Loyola University in New Orleans and Georgetown University. He also holds a master's degree from the United States Army War College.

Trump also announced his intention to nominate Anthony Kurta of Montana to be Wilkie's principal deputy. Kurta retired from the Navy as a rear admiral.(Brian Murphy, MCCLATCHY DC, 7/20/17).

Job Training

The 123 employees of the Kaba Ilco Corp. plant in Winston-Salem have been made eligible to receive additional weeks of unemployment insurance and reimbursement for job training, relocation and other costs. Company officials announced in November the Kaba Access Control manufacturing and assembly plant at 2941 Indiana Ave. would close. The closing is coming in phases, with the first job cuts conducted Jan. 11.

The production transfer decision qualified the company to file for federal Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits, which requires employees be adversely affected by foreign imports or a shift in production to other countries. The U.S. Labor Department must approve the benefits.

The Winston-Salem plant became controversial in 2015 when reports surfaced that since the early 1990s, the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality had known that a large batch of toxic waste exists under the property owned by the lock-products manufacturer. Groundwater and soil vapor samples in the area near the Kaba Ilco plant have been checked for concentrations of tetrachloroethene, also known as PCE, and trichloroethene, or TCE. The toxic chemicals have had uses in dry-cleaning and metal machinery cleaning applications. Those chemicals, linked to cancer and other illnesses, can turn into vapor and seep into buildings. (Richard Craver, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, 7/20/17).

Escape

Authorities have captured an inmate who escaped from a North Carolina prison. A news release from the N.C. Department of Public Safety said Jonathan Henderson was captured Thursday by Greensboro police officers as he walked down a local street. According to the department, Henderson scaled a fence Wednesday night and escaped from Randolph Correctional Center, a minimum-security state prison in Asheboro and approximately 27 miles (43 kilometers) south of Greensboro. Henderson, who was serving a five-month sentence for selling drugs, will now be housed at Central Prison in Raleigh. He will face a felony escape charge. (THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 7/20/17).

Nucor Earnings

Charlotte-based steel manufacturer Nucor on Thursday reported lower-than-expected earnings for the second quarter of 2017, even as its sales increased. Diluted earnings-per-share stood at \$1, lower than Wall Street analysts had expected by six cents. The company said imports are still negatively impacting the steel industry with large amounts of steel flooding into the U.S. and pushing the prices down. The company also said performance of its steel mills segment decreased in the quarter compared with the first quarter of 2017. Net sales jumped 22 percent to \$5.17 billion, up from \$4.25 billion in 2016. Boosted by strong sales, Nucor reported net earnings of \$323 million for the second quarter of 2017, up 25.9 percent.

In May, Nucor announced that it is investing \$176 million to build a galvanizing line at its sheet mill in Ghent, Kentucky. The construction project is expected to be finished in two years, subject to regulatory approvals. Earlier in March, the company also announced it plans to expand the mills in Ohio. Nucor manufactures steel products in the U.S. and Canada. The Charlotte corporate office has about 100 employees in SouthPark. (Wei Zhou, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 7/20/17).

BB&T Profits

A boost in fee income, particularly from its insurance business, and reduced expenses led BB&T Corp. to record second-quarter net income of \$631 million. The bank reported Thursday net income was up 16.6 percent compared with a year ago. Kelly King, BB&T's chairman and chief executive, cited increases in loan and fee revenues for the solid quarterly performance. "Taxable-equivalent revenues were a record \$2.9 billion, up 3.9 percent," King said. "Net interest income was up \$18 million and noninterest income was up \$90 million from last year."

King said BB&T plans to accelerate the \$1.88 billion share repurchase program it announced June 28 after getting Federal Reserve approval for its capital plan. The bank's board of directors is expected to formally approve the program, as well as raising its dividend by 3 cents to 33 cents at Tuesday's regularly scheduled meeting. "We indicated we would repurchase \$920 million in the third quarter ... and that will be done as soon as possible," King said.

"We have the excess capital today. We don't need it, and we think returning it to the shareholders as quick as possible makes sense ... I'm quite happy to do an accelerated repurchase of these funds at their current prices."

That pledge bolstered BB&T investors, who sent the share price up \$1.50, or by 3.3 percent, to close at \$46.26.(Richard Craver, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, 7/20/17).

Retirement Board

Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics of North Carolina Political Director Josh Smith joined the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System Thursday. Smith, an Iredell County native and Statesville resident, is a captain with the Statesville Fire Department, where he has served since 2002. Gov. Roy Cooper nominated Smith to the retirement panel in the weeks after being sworn into office, and the Senate gave unanimous consent to the nomination on the last day of session. Smith's term expires March 31, 2021. "As the North Carolina Treasurer and Board Chair, I welcome Captain Smith to our Board, not only as a professional but as a quality person," said Treasurer Dale Folwell. "As a firefighter, Captain Smith will be a constant reminder to me and the rest of the board that we must make decisions that keeps our promises to retirees, future retirees and taxpayers."(NEWS RELEASE, 7/20/17).

Research Ship

An \$11 million gift will help Duke University build and operate a research ship for its marine lab in North Carolina. The donation, from the Chicago Community Trust's Grainger Family Descendants Fund, provides \$5 million for a 68-foot ocean-going research vessel. Another \$6 million will go toward the cost of operating the ship. The donation was made to Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment. The vessel will be used by researchers, undergraduates and graduate students in oceanography and marine biology at the Duke Marine Lab in Beaufort. Equipped with labs, oceanographic equipment and sleeping quarters, the ship will be used for outreach programs to area public schools and can be chartered for special projects by researchers from other universities.(Jane Stancill, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 7/20/17).

Energy Bills

Duke Energy says it has launched new services giving customers in Charlotte and elsewhere more control over how much energy they use. One of the services automatically sends customers an email halfway through the monthly billing cycle detailing the bill's current amount and an estimate of the final total. The alerts can also be received as text messages, the Charlotte-based company said. Another service sends customers alerts when their bill is expected to hit a certain dollar amount the customer chooses. Duke said the information could help customers curb energy use to stay within personal budgets. Duke also said customers can pick billing due dates, an option the company said will provide customers more payment flexibility. Duke noted that there are certain eligibility requirements for the service but said typical residential customers should be eligible. All of the services are free and available to customers who have one of Duke's new "smart meters," which the company continues to install across its service territory. The meters send energy-usage data to Duke and customers through radio waves, eliminating the need for workers to physically read meters on site.(Deon Roberts, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 7/20/17).

Siskey Auction

More than 500 items ranging from a Bentley convertible to a 5-carat diamond ring are on the block Thursday as auctioneers sell off the former possessions of the late Rick Siskey, the Charlotte businessman accused of operating a long-running Ponzi scheme. Before launching into his fast-paced patter, auctioneer Leland Little kicked off the sale by welcoming bidders in person at the Charlotte Convention Center, on the Internet and calling in by phone. "This is an unusual opportunity as you can all see for yourself, from the vehicles to the jewelry to the coins to the nice furnishings," Little said. The sale comes after the 58-year-old Siskey took his own life in December, shortly after allegations emerged that he had long operated a Ponzi scheme costing investors millions of dollars. Proceeds from the auction are expected to benefit investors and other creditors, an attorney for Siskey's widow, Diane, has said.

A document filed in Mecklenburg County probate court in June valued Siskey's estate at \$4,423,026. That total included \$454,110 in stocks and bonds and \$3,954,242 in other personal property, including the items up for sale at the auction. According to the document, Leland Little Auctions valued the jewelry and coin collection at \$371,550 and the car collection at \$1.7 million. Some of the cars have loans that require repayment. The couple's home is not part of the probate court process. (Rick Rothacker, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 7/20/17).

WWII Ordnance

National Park Service rangers found unexploded World War II-era ordnance Tuesday at the southern end of Hatteras Island. It was the second piece like it found in the last week. The Navy's Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit responded Wednesday and detonated the bomb under controlled conditions, according to a news release from Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

"The disposal of two unexploded ordnances in the last six days serves as a reminder of the part the Outer Banks played during World War II," Outer Banks Group Superintendent David Hallac said. "I greatly appreciate the support the U.S. Navy has provided." (Jeff Hampton, THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT, 7/19/17).

Legislative Studies and Meetings

Items in **Bold** are new listings.

LB: Legislative Building

LOB: Legislative Office Building.

More Information: <http://ncleg.net/LegislativeCalendar/>

Wednesday, July 26

- 1:30 p.m. | House Select Committee on Redistricting, 643 LOB.

Thursday, Aug. 3

- Noon | House convenes in session.
- Noon | Senate convenes in session.

N.C. Government Meetings and Hearings

Items in **BOLD** are new listings.

Friday, July 21

- 9 a.m. | The State Board of Community Colleges board meets, NC Community College System Office at 200 W. Jones St., Raleigh.

Monday, July 24

- 1 p.m. | The Economic Investment Committee meets to consider one or more economic development proposals, N.C. Commerce Executive Board Room, fourth floor, 301 N. Wilmington St., Raleigh. Contact: Hannah Harrill, [919-814-4612](tel:919-814-4612).

Tuesday, July 25

- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Code Officials Qualification Board holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, 1st Floor Hearing Room, Room 131 (Albemarle Building), 325 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

- 1 p.m. | The Board Development Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets, 1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. Contact: Yvonne Huntley, [919-821-9573](tel:919-821-9573).

Wednesday, July 26

- 9 a.m. | The Wildlife Resource Commission committees meet, Commission Room, 5th Floor, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

Thursday, July 27

- 9 a.m. | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, WRC Centennial Campus, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

Monday, July 31

- 12 p.m. | The N.C. State Board of Elections hold public hearing on proposed rule changes, State Board of Elections Office, 441 N. Harrington St., Raleigh.

Tuesday, Aug. 1

- 12 p.m. | The UNC Board of Governors' Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs, Board Room of the Center for School Leadership Development, 140 Friday Center Dr., Chapel Hill. Contact: Josh Ellis, [919-962-4629](tel:919-962-4629).

Thursday, Aug. 3

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, [888-684-8404](tel:888-684-8404).

Wednesday, Aug. 16

- 10:30 a.m. | The Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Wake Technical Community College-Public Safety Training Center, 321 Chapanoke Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, Aug. 17

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Wednesday, Sept. 13

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Sept. 14

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Sept. 21

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, Sept. 28

- 10:30 a.m. | The Standard Commercial Fishing License Eligibility Board to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries meets, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' Wilmington District Office, 127 North Cardinal Dr. Extension, Wilmington.

Thursday, Oct. 5

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, [888-684-8404](tel:888-684-8404).
- TBD | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, WRC Centennial Campus, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

Thursday, Oct. 19

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Nov. 9

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Nov. 16

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, Dec. 7

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, [888-684-8404](tel:888-684-8404).
- TBD | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

Thursday, Dec. 21

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Jan. 11

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality

The N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources has a new name - the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality. More Information: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest/home>

Tuesday, July 18

- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Water Resources hold public meeting on Atlantic Coast Pipeline Water Quality Certification, Fayetteville Technical Community College Cumberland Hall Auditorium at 2201 Hull Rd., Fayetteville.

Thursday, July 20

- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Water Resources hold public meeting on Atlantic Coast Pipeline Water Quality Certification, Nash Community College Brown Auditorium at 522 N. Old Carriage Road, Rocky Mount.

Thursday, Aug. 3

- 2 p.m. | The state Department on Air Quality holds public hearing concerning incorporation of 2015 Ozone Ambient Standard and Readoption, 2145 Suttle Ave., Charlotte.

N.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Schedule

Dobbs Building
430 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina

More Information: <http://www.ncuc.commerce.state.nc.us/activities/activit.htm>

Monday, July 24

- Staff Conference

Monday, July 31

- Staff Conference

UNC Board of Governors

Board Room of the UNC Center for School Leadership Development
140 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill (**remote meeting locations in BOLD**)
More Information: <https://www.northcarolina.edu/bog/schedule.php>

Tuesday, Aug. 1

- 12 p.m. | The Board of Governors' Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs, Board Room of the Center for School Leadership Development, 140 Friday Center Dr., Chapel Hill.

Friday, Sept. 8

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, Nov. 3

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, Dec. 15

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, Jan. 26, 2018

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, March 23, 2018

- TBA | UNC Wilmington, Wilmington.

Friday, May 25, 2018

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Other Meetings and Events of Interest

Items in **BOLD** are new listings.

Friday, July 21

- **10 a.m. | Gov. Roy Cooper signs bills to support North Carolina's National Guard, North Carolina National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, 1636 Gold Star Dr., Raleigh.**

Sunday, July 30

- TBD | The NC Bankers Association host 81st Annual NC School of Banking, William & Ida Friday Center, UNC-Chapel Hill. The conference concludes on Aug. 4.

Monday, Aug. 14

- No time given | U.S. Small Business Administration deadline for businesses, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and renters in North Carolina to submit disaster loan applications for damages caused by the severe storms on May 30.

Friday, Sept. 8

- No Time Given | The 77th Annual National Folk Festival opens in Downtown Greensboro for its third year in the state. Contact: Kaitlin Smith, [336-373-7523, ext 246](tel:336-373-7523).

Sunday, Sept. 24

- TBD | The NC Bankers Association hold Young Bankers Conference, Crowne Plaza Asheville Resort, Asheville.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

- 10 a.m. | The Carolinas Air Pollution Control Association hold Technical Workshop and Forum, Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort, 10000 Beach Club Dr., Myrtle Beach.

Monday, Nov. 6

- TBD | The NC Bankers Association hold Women in Banking Conference, Renaissance Charlotte Southpark, 5501 Carnegie Blvd., Charlotte.

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